

Port Health Report for the Borough and Port of Sandwich, 1972

General comment

Following some years of inactivity the Port of Sandwich and that part of it at Richborough showed signs of revival during 1972. As before the shipping coming into the port comes under the customs surveillance of the Waterguard at Ramsgate and health declarations required on entry are collected by the Customs Officers and pratique is given unless there are any doubts which require to be resolved. As such clearance is given within the Port Health area of Ramsgate the Customs Officer has a choice of approach if the advice of a Medical Officer is required.

Table A.

The Port Health Inspector and Medical Officer of Health available for duties remain unchanged as stated in my 1971 report.

Table B.

From Foreign Ports	Shipping	Tonnage	Cargo	
			Nature & Origin	see below
		10	1,376	Mixed
Coastwise	Frequent	155,990	Fuel oil	

A number of pleasure craft use the port and the river for moorings.

The type of cargo imported has included bananas, cattle cake, paper, beech boules, and a cargo of Yams and Ginger. All have originated from European ports within the accepted area. Just under 500 tons of plastic material was exported to Rotterdam through Richborough.

The fuel oil is delivered to the Richborough Wharf for the Power Station and to Pfizer's Wharf for industry in that area.

There is no barge traffic that goes further than the port and haven but there has been a great increase in the usage of the river by small pleasure craft.

All ships apart from those bringing fuel oil were visited by the Public Health Inspector on arrival in the port.

No defects were found to which attention required to be called.

Section 5. Water Supply

The mains water supply to the Port and Borough of Sandwich is a chlorinated moderately hard chalk water from the Woodnesborough Well distributed through the Thanet Water Board mains. A standpipe supply is available from the mains at the Town Quay, at the Stonar Boatyard and Marina (private) and at Pfizer's Industrial Wharf. The hydrant at the Quay is under the direct supervision of the Toll Bridge staff and the hosepipe is kept in a safe place by the bridge attendant and available on request. Water samples taken at the Quay hydrant and at Pfizer's Wharf showed satisfactory biological results.

The recent increase in the use of the Port of Richborough led to an investigation of water points for ships at that port. Although a mains supply is available with contact point the Public Health Inspector is not satisfied with the facilities provided for linking this source to any shipping that requires water. This matter has been taken up with the Development Company in order to ensure that ships can take in water at this point if required.



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Section 6

No cases of infectious disease were reported in shipping or in pleasure craft during the year.

Disinfection of accommodation on ships or small craft can be carried out by a gaseous disinfection by the staff of the Health Department and facilities are available at Eastry Hospital, near Sandwich, for steam sterilization if required.

The Ramsgate mortuary is available to be used by the Sandwich Borough.

The list of infected port and airports is distributed weekly to the Customs Waterguard at Ramsgate and the Hoverport. This list is based on the report on international disease distributed through the Department of Health weekly.

M. H. Dow
29/3/73

